



Coventry Village News

May, 1987

The Newsletter of Coventry Neighbors, Inc.

Volume 11 No. 5

Strategic plan is the subject of discussion at CNI meeting on May 12 at Library

The City of Cleveland Heights is working on what it calls a "Strategic Development Plan." That document is seen as a guide to many of the local government's actions for the next decade. Members of the City's Planning Commission and its administrative staff will exchange ideas on the plan with Coventry Neighbors, Inc. (CNI) on Tuesday, May 12.

The meeting will be held at the Coventry Village Library at 7:30 PM. Everyone is welcome.

The Planning Commission has divided the subject matter of the Strategic Plan into five areas: housing, schools, integration maintenance, commercial development, and land use. The Commission is in the midst of a series of public hearings on these subjects.

The Commission has already held a series of meetings with special interest groups--senior citizens, developers and architects, Realtors, and those concerned with the special problems of youth.

After these meetings designed to gather information, suggestions and comments, a draft of the strategic plan will be prepared. A first draft will likely be ready by late summer. More community meetings, designed to review and polish the plan, will then be set.

At the April 14 meeting of CNI, area residents had a chance to review plans for a condominium apartment complex proposed for Edgemoor Road, between the intersection with Overlook Road and the Cleveland border. Architect Robert Blatchford brought plans and a scale model of the proposed building.

After considerable discussion, CNI resolved to communicate its support for the project to the Board of Zoning Appeals. The

Board met the next night, and gave its unanimous approval to zoning variances required for the project. City Council unanimously confirmed the Board's action at its meeting of April 20.

--Larry Beam

Tour "The Lanes of Coventry" May 9 with Ken Goldberg

The first of a series of six tours focusing on the historical heritage of Coventry Village will be led by architectural historian Ken Goldberg on Saturday, May 9. Participants will meet at the Coventry Village Library at 2:00 PM.

They will walk through the area of single-family homes south of Euclid Heights Boulevard, west of Coventry Road. Mr. Goldberg will explain how that area was first developed with a handful of large estates; the homes there now are a second growth of far smaller residences.

The group will return to the Library at about 4:00 for light refreshments.

Other tours are set for alternate Saturdays through the summer.

Plans progress for Sounds of Coventry

Bookings are now firming up for the concerts set for June 28 in Coventry Village. The Echoes and the Heritage Brass Quintet have agreed to perform. Talks are continuing with other groups, including Primavera Consort, Cleveland Klezmeriam, Hotfoot Quintet, Bob Ferrara, and Stand Bayou. The committee hoped to get Robert Jr. Lockwood, the great blues artist, but he'll be out of town on tour.

These concerts will be held in the amphitheater at the west end of the Elementary School grounds, and in the parking next to the

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Landlord gets off; violations continue

Mel Fishman, owner of the apartment building at 2749 Hampshire Road, had been charged with allowing cars to park on the landscaped area behind his building. The charge was dismissed by the Cleveland Heights Municipal Court of April 22.

Fishman told the court that he'd tried, without success, to get the Cleveland Heights Police to ticket the cars parked there. A member of the City's Inspectional Services staff made similar representations about the police and parking on the grass.

Fishman told the Court that he visits the property nearly every day, and that he's tried to prevent parking on the back yard grass. Fishman said that the building's resident manager is rarely there.

Chris Guarnieri, a referee for the Court, dismissed the charges.

But the problem continues. Regular parking there by tenants has made a muddy mess of the back yard.

Fishman had also been charged with not having a cover on a trash dumpster. Fishman had replaced the top on his dumpster, so that charge was dismissed. Fishman said that his problems with the dumpster's overflowing were caused by residents of neighboring buildings, who, he alleged, placed their trash in his dumpster. The dumpster is frequently put out on the street earlier than law allows. —Charles Owen

FHC Housing Corp offers home repair assistance, advice

With the construction season now upon us, it is time to plan repairs and improvements.

The Forest Hill Church Housing Corporation may make it possible for you to do many things you thought financially impossible. Here are some of the ways that FHC Housing Corporation may be able to help you:

Project Repair is open to all. It offers workshops on repair work, tool loans, skills exchange, and good advice.

The Challenge Fund is for those who cannot obtain a bank loan needed to finance repairs.

Assist 3% Program reduces interest costs, helping low and moderate income homeowners afford repairs.

HCP provides low-interest loans for energy-related work (e.g., a new furnace); a family of four earning as much as \$45,281 may be eligible.

In addition to these programs, FHC Housing Corporation offers tips on getting and understanding bids, lists of reputable contractors, and free literature on many subjects.

Perhaps most importantly, counselors there know the resources available.

FHC Housing Corporation is a non-profit community organization located at 2483 Lee Boulevard. Phone 321-3920.

Hours of curfew will be enforced

The City of Cleveland Heights requires that children less than 12 years old be off the streets between darkness and 6:00 AM.

Those between 12 and 16 years of age must be off the streets 10:30 PM to 6:00 AM.

Those aged 17 and 18 years must be off the streets between midnight and 6:00 AM.

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The deadline for each month is the 16th day of the preceding month. While no unsigned material will be used, names may be withheld from publication at the writer's request.
Phone: 371-6095.

*Coventry Village . . .
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pretty well.*

Youth Center offers mediation program

By Harriet Tramer

"Mediation" may conjure up images of jet-setters massaging each other's egos as they seek resolution to major threats to world peace. The term, however, can be utilized within a less grandiose context, as Coventry Village residents will soon be learning. Mediation can be used to help neighbors or friends settle disputes.

Coventry Youth Center supervisor Elaine Irvin says that the negotiation process begins when a problem is referred to an advocate who then contacts the individuals involved. Once they have agreed to accept mediation, an appropriate location is selected.

"We need to find a place where people will feel comfortable," Irvin explains. "Any number of different places...local churches, schools, or even our center could be used."

Mediation sessions begin with each of the participants telling his or her side of the story. A person might, for example, indicate that his window was broken, and identify the other participant as the perpetrator. The accused individual might admit that he or she did commit the crime, but claim to have been acting in retaliation for a perceived slight.

The next step involves the two participants confronting each other and relating their feelings--be it anger or disappointment--surrounding the issue under discussion. Then, all involved are asked by the mediator, Irvin explains, to list solutions they think could resolve the conflict. As the session draws to a close, the two participants determine what they perceive as the single best resolution. An agreement is subsequently drawn up and signed.

"Mediation is particularly effective because nobody ends up feeling like they are the loser, as would be the case with a court trial," Irvin notes. "People can also avoid the cost or publicity that might surround such a case."

Extensive follow-ups complete the mediation process. A copy of the resolution is sent, Irvin notes, to any third party who might have referred the case to an advocate. For the next six months, contact with the participants continues as efforts are undertaken to make certain that all agreements are kept.

Irvin and Phil Bachman, a University Heights resident, have been trained as advocates, and are currently preparing local residents to act as mediators. By summer, they should be ready to accept referrals.

At that point, the Youth Center should

also be offering what Irvin terms a "life style or health education" course for teens. Topics such as sexuality and drug abuse will be discussed in small group settings, with students being taught to resist peer pressure.

The Coventry Youth Center, located in the Coventry Elementary School All-Purpose Room, is now in its third year. The hours are 4:00 to 8:30 PM, Monday through Thursday evenings, and annual membership dues are \$10.00. Support for the Center is provided by the Cleveland Foundation, the George Gund Foundation, the Greater Cleveland Neighborhood Center Association, Coventry Merchants Association, and other sources.

Street performers sought

Street performers--mimes, jugglers, musicians, clowns and face painters--always add a special flair to busy urban neighborhoods like Coventry Village.

So Coventry Neighbors, Inc. (CNI) is seeking performers willing to entertain on busy days in the Coventry business district. On the days of the events planned for the coming summer, and (if funds allow) on other busy days, we'll pay performers, in addition to what they're able to get with a passed hat or open instrument case.

David O'Konski is coordinating the effort to find street performers. Call him at 932-0018 if you are interested.

Dinner Dance set for Saturday, May 9

The Second Annual Dinner Dance will be held by the Coventry Youth Center on Saturday, May 9, at the Civic, on Mayfield Road near Lee.

An open bar begins at 7:30. There will be dancing and a cash bar after dinner. Music will be performed by the Bottom Line.

The price is \$25 per person. Call 932-9785 for further information. Checks may be sent to Coventry Youth Center, 1925 Coventry Road, Cleveland Heights, Ohio 44118.

*Coventry Village . . .
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Events . . . continued from page 1

Bistrot des Artistes restaurant, across from Tommy's. With the help of Allison Kaslow, of the Cleveland Music School Settlement and a resident of Coventry Village, CNI is seeking funding for the concerts from the Ohio Arts Council.

Arts Fest seeks participants

Artists wishing to participate in the Arts Fest set for August 2 should contact Nancy Miller at 932-0326. A brochure describing the event is nearly ready for the mail. Elaine Szilagyi, Herbert Ascherman, and David Batz have agreed to serve on the committee that will screen participants.

HCC offers a book on community heritage

Copies of *In Our Day*, published by the Heights Community Congress last fall, are still available. The book contains all material from *Heritage on the Heights* and *In My Day*, books published by the HCC in 1977 and 1878, with substantial new text and photographs.

The 96-page soft-bound book measures 8.5 by 11 inches. It makes a great coffee-table piece, and is packed with fascinating lore about the history, development, and people of Cleveland Heights.

Copies may be obtained in local book stores, or by mail from the Heights Community Congress, 2163 Lee Road, Cleveland Heights, Ohio, 44118. The price: \$8.95 plus \$1.33 for tax, postage, and handling.

Library goings-on

Poetry readings are held at the Coventry Village Library on the first Sunday of each month, at 2:30 PM. On June 7, James Lang and Marilyn Murray will read; on July 5, the guest poets will be Robert Woods and Renee Matthews-Jackson.

Now is the time to register children for programs aimed at preschool children. Children three to five years old will be placed in these programs on a first come, first served basis. The programs are:

Teddy Bear's Picnic, Tuesday, June 16, at 7:00 PM, or Wednesday, June 17, at 10:30 AM.

Preschool Storytime, Tuesdays, June 30 through August 4, and Wednesdays, July 1 through August 5.

"Let's Count Sheep," Tuesday, August 11, 7:30 PM. This is a bedtime program; children come in pj's.

You are encouraged to visit the Library

and to check out materials all through the summer. Library hours are: Sunday, 1:00 to 5:00; Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday, 12:00 to 8:30; Wednesday and Saturday, 9:00 to 5:30; the Library is closed on Fridays.

Sandy Kaplan, of Western Reserve Wheelers, will present two programs for bicyclists at the Main Library, 2345 Lee Road. On Tuesday, May 12, at 7:30 PM, Kaplan will describe how to choose a bike that's right for you or your child. The next Saturday, May 16, at 9:30 AM, Kaplan will demonstrate bicycle maintenance and repair for children and adults. Participants in this second program should bring a bicycle and tools.

Also at the Main Library is the Business Over Breakfast program on Thursday, May 7. The aim of the program is to introduce operators of small businesses to the wealth of information available to them at the library. Reservations must be made by May 4; call 932-3600, extension 31.

New fiction at the Coventry Library includes *Ambitions*, K. Marton; *Being Invisible*, T. Berger; *The Celestial Bed*, W. Irving; *Deadline for a Critic*, W. Kienzle; *The Female of the Species*, L. Shriver; *No Deals*, Mr. Bond, J. Gardner; *The Other Side of Paradise*, N. Barber; *Over the Edge*, J. Kellerman; *Reel Murder*, M. Badson; *Serenissima*, E. Jong; *Sleeping with the Enemy*, N. Price; *Texasville*, L. McMurtry; *That Night*, A. McDermott; and *Winter Hawk*, C. Thomas.

Dobama offers a new play

Possessions, a never-before-produced play by Susan Harris Smith, will continue at Dobama Theater through May 9.

Ms. Smith is drama critic for the Pittsburgh Press and Assistant Professor of English at the University of Pittsburgh. She has written a book titled *Masks in Modern Drama* and thirteen plays.

The cast includes Lee Zinner, Jeanne Task, Scott Brotherton, and Wendy Warren. Donald Bianchi directs.

Tickets are \$5.00 on week nights and \$6.00 on Saturdays. Students and Senior Citizens pay just \$3.00 on week nights, and \$5.00 on Saturdays.

Call the box office at 932-6838 for reservations or further information.

Support Coventry Village.
Join Coventry Neighbors, Inc.
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Around Coventry . . .

Hunan . . . Hunan on Coventry has opened in a new location at 1876 Coventry Road. The new location is nearly twice the size of the old spot, a former garage in the courtyard behind Coventry Yard. The old spot will become a Thai restaurant, to be called Siam. Plans call for its opening in late June, perhaps early July. Extensive renovation is planned.

The increased size of the restaurant makes it a bit easier to get a table for dinner. But the restaurant is so successful that one still must often wait for a table, especially on Friday and Saturday evenings. The menu offers the same delightful dishes with the finest presentation in town.

The design work on the new Hunan was done by George Lewis. New art on the walls is by Alice Haybron, a Chagrin Falls resident.

Mini park . . . The City of Cleveland Heights has agreed for a second year to allow Arabica, the coffee house, to put tables and chairs in the small park in front of Coventry Yard.

The tables and chairs may help to reduce the wear and tear that the grass in the park gets. Under an agreement with the City, owners of Coventry Yard are supposed to maintain the park. But it's been quite a few years since the mall ownership has done a really adequate job of maintenance, and so crews from the City have helped out. For several years now, the City crews have

planted new grass there each spring. In past years, the City crews put up a temporary fence, to keep people off the grass until it had a chance to become established. No fence went up this year; instead, the plan is to keep the place soaking wet, to discourage sitting on the grass. But the regular watering--done by a City worker each morning--does nothing to keep people from walking across it, and the wetness just makes their feet sink in deeper, making a real mess of the newly-planted grass. Spencer Caress, who's in charge of such things for Cleveland Heights, has pledged to replant the grass as many times as necessary--but there'll be no fence.

City Council is giving serious thought to a complete rebuilding of the park. No plan has yet been seen, but a budget of \$152,000 is being discussed. Council is considering asking for a large bond issue for the renovation of City parks. The total now being discussed is \$12,000,000. Plans call for the bond issue to be on the November ballot.

Irv's . . . A sign in the window of what was once Fat Choy, a Chinese restaurant next to Irv's Deli (1798 Coventry Road), still reads "Closed for the month of January." Proprietor Irv Gulko apparently put the sign there when he thought he'd soon again have a bar in the location.

There is no news, yet, on the results on the February hearing on Gulko's application for a liquor license. --Ed.

Letter to the Editor

Dear Sir:

You are wrong to imply [CVN, March] that local laws requiring residents to clean up after their animals are not enforced. In 1986, ninety-six warnings were issued to residents regarding their dogs defecating. While this is not a large number, it does represent the fact that we respond to the issue every time we are notified.

This is only a small percentage of the total cases to which Cleveland Heights' Animal Wardens respond. For example, they responded to complaints concerning 2,103 dogs running at large, 340 cat complaints, and 1,094 wildlife complaints. There were 439 barking complaints, 333 dogs impounded, 175 cats impounded, 639 wild animals removed from the city, and 653 traps delivered to residents.

If a resident has a problem with a neighbor's dog defecating on private or public

property, the Animal Wardens should be notified. The number is 291-4949.

I do not think there is another community in Cuyahoga County that offers better or more comprehensive animal control services to its residents than Cleveland Heights.

--Spencer Caress, Director
Community Services
City of Cleveland Heights

Chore Service Program available to seniors

Teen-aged workers are available for house and yard work. They are free to senior citizens of low and moderate income. Call Delores Willis at 291-4428 for more information.

Coventry Neighbors, Inc.
c/o The Heights Community Congress
2163 Lee Road
Cleveland Heights OH 44118

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DATED MATERIAL--PLEASE DELIVER BY FRIDAY MAY 8

Coventry Neighbors, Inc. General Meeting. Tuesday May 12. 7:30
PM. at Coventry Village Library. Everyone is welcome.

Coventry Neighbors, Inc. Trustees meeting. Thursday June 4.
8:00 PM. at 1641 Hillcrest Road. The meeting is open to all dues-
paid members of CNI.

JOIN Coventry Neighbors, Inc.. NOW. You must be a member to
vote on the issues decided at our meetings. Join now. All
memberships and subscriptions expire at the end of each year.

Please indicate the class of membership you want:

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